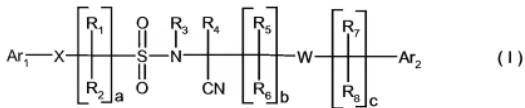


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound of the general formula



including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for an optionally substituted phenyl aryl or heteroaryl group,

R₁ and R₂ stand independently of each other for hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₃ designates hydrogen, C₃-C₅alkenyl, C₃-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl;

R₄ is optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₇ and R₈ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

W designates a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃- ;

X designates a direct bond or a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃- ;

a and b independently of each other stand for a number 1, 2 or 3; and

c and m independently of each other stand for a number zero, 1 or 2.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein

Ar₁ stands for a phenyl ar₄ group which is optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₉; or stands for a 5 ring membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₁; or stands for a 6 ring membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₄; Ar₂ stands for a phenyl ar₄ group which is optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₉ and from one radical R₁₀; or stands for a 5 ring membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to

~~4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₄; or stands for a 5 ring membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₄; or stands for a fused bicyclic heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, and being composed from the 5 ring or 6 ring membered heteroaryl groups as defined for Ar₂ with an annellated phenyl ring or with an annellated second 6 ring membered heteroaryl, each ring and the bicyclic heteroaryl being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₄;~~

R₁ and R₂ stand independently of each other for hydrogen or C₁-C₅alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy or -NR₁₂R₁₃; or stand for C₂-C₅alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C₁-C₃alkoxy; or stand for C₂-C₅alkynyl; or stand for C₃-C₆cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy; C₁-C₃alkyl or -NR₁₂R₁₃;

R₃ designates hydrogen, C₃-C₅alkenyl, C₃-C₅alkynyl or C₁-C₃alkyl optionally substituted by C₁-C₃alkoxy; C₃-C₅alkenyl or C₃-C₅alkynyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₅alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy or -NR₁₂R₁₃; or is C₂-C₅alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C₁-C₃alkoxy; or is C₂-C₅alkynyl; or is C₃-C₆cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy or C₁-C₃alkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently of each other hydrogen or C₁-C₅alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy or -NR₁₂R₁₃; or are C₂-C₅alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C₁-C₃alkoxy; or are C₂-C₅alkynyl; or are C₃-C₆cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy; C₁-C₃alkyl or -NR₁₂R₁₃;

R₇ and R₈ are independently of each other hydrogen or C₁-C₅alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy or -NR₁₂R₁₃; or are C₂-C₅alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C₁-C₃alkoxy; or are C₂-C₅alkynyl; or are C₃-C₆cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy; C₁-C₃alkyl or -NR₁₂R₁₃;

R₉ and R_{9'} independently of each other stand for C₁-C₅alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -CO-R₁₄ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of -CO-R₁₄, by a -X-aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, -CN, -NO₂, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -CO-R₁₄ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of -CO-R₁₄; by a -X-linked-5- or 6-ring membered heteroaryl group optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, -CN, -NO₂, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -CO-R₁₄ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of -CO-R₁₄; or stand for C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, =O, C₁-C₄alkoxy, NR₁₂R₁₃; or

stand for C_1-C_4 alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, by $-X$ -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; by a X-linked 5- or 6-ring-membered heteroaryl group optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted by halogen, tri-alkyl-silyl or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted by halogen, tri-alkyl-silyl or aryl; or stand for C_3-C_6 cycloalkoxy optionally substituted by C_1-C_3 alkyl, halogen or C_1-C_4 alkoxy; or stand for halogen; or stand for $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, or stand for $-NR_2-CO-R_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-CO-OR_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-CO-NR_8R_9$; or stand for $-NR_2-CO-SR_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-CS-OR_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-CS-NR_8R_9$; or stand for $-NR_2-CS-SR_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-C(=N-O-R_{12})-S-OR_{12}$; or stand for $-NR_2-C(=N-O-R_{12})-NR_8R_9$; or stand for $-NR_2-C(=N-O-R_{12})-SR_{12}$; or stand for $-S(O)_p-C_1-C_4$ alkyl optionally substituted by halogen; or stand for $-NR_2-SO_2-NR_8R_9$; or stand for nitro, for cyano or for $-CS-NH_2$;

R_{10} stands for hydrogen; or stands for $-X$ -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; or stands for a X-linked 5-membered aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; or stands for a X-linked 6-membered aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; or stands for $-O-CO-R_{14}$; or stands for $-C(=N-O-R_{12})-R_{14}$; R_{10} and one R_9 together form a 3- or 4-membered non-aromatic bridge forming an annellated ring which may contain a carbonyl function or nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and is optionally substituted by C_1-C_3 alkyl;

R_{11} is hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $NR_{12}R_{13}$, NO_2 , CN , $CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$;

W designates a bridge selected from $-O-$, $-S(O)_m-$ or $-NR_3-$;

X designates a direct bond or a bridge selected from $-O-$, $-S(O)_m-$ or $-NR_3-$;

a stands for a number 1, 2 or 3;

- b stands for a number 1, 2 or 3;
- c stands for a number zero, 1 or 2;
- m stands for a number zero, 1 or 2;
- n stands for a number 1 or 2;
- p stands for a number 0, 1 or 2;

R_{12} and R_{13} independently of each other stand for hydrogen; C_1 – C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or stand for C_3 – C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or stand for C_3 – C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or together form a 5-ring-membered non-aromatic carbocyclic ring; or together form a 6-ring-membered non-aromatic carbocyclic ring which is interrupted by $-O-$ or $-N(C_1$ – C_4 alkyl) $-$;

R_{14} stands for C_1 – C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino; aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino or C_1 – C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or by a 5- or 6-ring hetero-aromatic ring which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, C_1 – C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or stands for C_3 – C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, $=O$, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy or C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino; or stands for C_1 – C_4 alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy; C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino; or stands for phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, C_1 – C_4 al- yl carbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or stands for a 5- or 6-ring membered heteroaryl comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 – C_4 alkyl, C_1 – C_4 haloalkyl; C_1 – C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1 – C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)amino, C_1 – C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 – C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or di(C_1 – C_4 alkyl)aminocarbonyl.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ of Ar₁ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN and -CO-R₁₄; and the optional substituents R'₉ of Ar₂ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN, -CO-R₁₄, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -NR₂-CO-R₁₂, -NR₃-CO-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CO-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CO-SR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CS-SR₁₂, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄alkyl, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄haloalkyl, -NR₂-SO₂-NR₈R₉, nitro, cyano and -CS-NH₂; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted thiazolyl, optionally substituted pyridyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyloxy, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl and optionally substituted pyrazolyl.

Claim 4 (Original): A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently stand for optionally substituted phenyl ~~and~~ groups; and the optional substituents R₉ of Ar₁ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN and -CO-R₁₄; and the optional substituents R'₉ of Ar₂ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN, -CO-R₁₄, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -NR₂-CO-R₁₂, -NR₃-CO-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CO-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CO-SR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CS-SR₁₂, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄alkyl, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄haloalkyl, -NR₂-SO₂-NR₈R₉, nitro, cyano and -CS-NH₂; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, -CN, -NO₂, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -CO-R₁₄ and the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of -CO-R₁₄; -O-CO-R₁₄, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted thiazolyl, optionally substituted pyridyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyloxy, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl; and R₁, R₂, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ independently of each other are hydrogen or methyl; and R₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₃-C₆alkenyl, or

C₃-C₄alkynyoxy; and

R₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy, C₁-C₃alkylamino or di-C₁-C₃alkylamino; and

W is -O- ; and

X is a direct bond; and

the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1 ; and

the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

Claim 5 (Original): A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and

the optional substituents R₉ and R'₉ of Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from the group comprising C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy and C₃-C₆cycloalkyl; and

the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from -CO-C₁-C₄alkyl, -CO-C₁-C₄alkoxy,

-O-CO-C₁-C₄alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted phenoxy, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted imidazolyloxy, optionally substituted thiazolylloxy, optionally substituted thiazolyl, optionally substituted thiadiazolyl, optionally substituted thiadiazolyloxy, optionally substituted thiadiazolyl, optionally substituted pyridyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyloxy, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyloxy, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyloxy and optionally substituted pyrazolyloxy; and

R₁ and R₅ are independently C₁-C₄alkyl and R₂ and R₆ are hydrogen; and

R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; and

R₄ is C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄haloalkyl; and

W is -O- ; and

X is a direct bond; and

the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1 ; and

the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ and R'₉ of Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from the group comprising bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, cyano, hydroxy, amino, nitro, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, allyloxy, propargyloxy, benzyloxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, 2-cyano-2-methyl-butyloxy,

methylsulfonyl, methylsulfinyl, methylthio, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methoximinoethyl, aminocarbonyl, butylcarbonylamino, tert-butylcarbonylamino, triazol-1-ylmethyl, 1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl, N-morpholinocarbonylamino, aminocarbonyloxy-ethoxy, morpholinocarbonyloxyethoxy and cyanopyridyloxyethoxy; and
the optional substituent R_{10} on Ar_2 is selected from aminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, acetyl, propionyl, acetoxy, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, methoximinoethyl, 1-imidazolyl, 5-(3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazolyl)oxy, 2-pyridyl, 2-pyridyloxy, 4-pyrimidinyl, 2-(3,5-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidinylthio), 2-oxadiazolyl, 2-(5-methyl-oxadazolyl), 2-(5-ethyl-oxadiazolyl), 1-triazolyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 1-(3,4-dimethylpyrazolyl), 4-(2-methylthiazolyl), 2-(1,3,4-oxydiazolyl), N-pyrrolidin-2-onyl, and 2-quinoxalinyl, and
 R_1 and R_5 are independently C_1 - C_4 alkyl and R_2 and R_6 are hydrogen; and
 R_3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 alkyl; and
 R_4 is C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl; and
 W is $-O-$; and
 X is a direct bond; and
the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1; and
the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

Claim 7 (Original): A compound according to claim 1, wherein
 Ar_1 and Ar_2 independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and
the optional substituents R_9 and R'_{9} of Ar_1 and Ar_2 are selected from the group comprising bromo, chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl and trifluoromethoxy; and
the optional substituent R_{10} on Ar_2 is selected from aminocarbonyl, acetyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, 1-imidazolyl, 5-(3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazolyl)oxy, 2-pyridyl, 2-pyridyloxy, 4-pyrimidinyl, 2-(3,5-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidinylthio), 2-oxadiazolyl, 2-(5-methyl-oxadazolyl), 2-(5-ethyl-oxadiazolyl), 1-triazolyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 4-(2-methylthiazolyl), 2-(1,3,4-oxydiazolyl), and N-pyrrolidin-2-onyl, and
 R_1 and R_5 are methyl and R_2 and R_6 are hydrogen; and
 R_3 is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, ethoxymethyl or methoxymethyl, and
 R_4 is methyl, ethyl, propyl or fluoromethyl; and
 W is $-O-$; and
 X is a direct bond; and
the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1; and

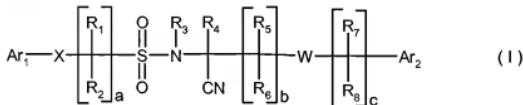
the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

Claim 8 (Original): A compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from the group comprising

2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-[(2-chlorophenyl)-methyl]-sulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-sulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-trifluoromethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chloro-3-methylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-methoxy-propionitrile,
2-[(4-acetylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-methoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-acetylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
(-)-2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-propionylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-imidazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-4-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-methoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
(-)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-methoxycarbonylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-propionylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-fluoro-propionitrile,
2-[(4-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-pyrazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-(5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-chloro-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-methyl-butyronitrile,

2-[(4-iso-propyl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[(4-nitro-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[(4-cyano-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[(3-fluoro-4-propionyl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
 (-)-2-[(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile, and
 (-)-2-[(4-acetylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1,



including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for an optionally substituted phenyl group.

R₁ and R₂ stand independently of each other for hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁-C₆alkyl,

optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₃ designates hydrogen, C₃-C₆alkenyl, C₃-C₆alkynyl or optionally substituted C₁-C₆alkyl;

R₄ is optionally substituted C₁-C₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₇ and R₈ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

W designates a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃-;

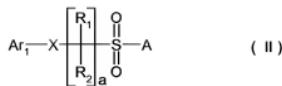
X designates a direct bond or a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃-;

a and b independently of each other stand for a number 1, 2 or 3; and

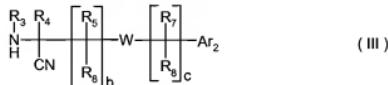
c and m independently of each other stand for a number zero, 1 or 2;

which comprises reacting

a) reacting the sulfonylating agent of formula II

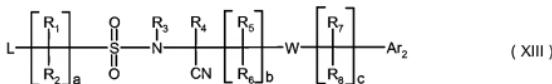


wherein Ar_1 to a , X and R_1 to R_2 are defined as under formula I, and A stands for a leaving group like an anhydride, i.e. $\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-(\text{CR}_3\text{R}_4)_a-\text{X}-\text{Ar}_1$ or $\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{C}_4\text{alkyl}$, but preferably for halogen, especially bromine or more preferably chlorine, with an amino-acetonitrile of formula III



wherein Ar_2 , b , c , W and R_5 to R_8 are defined as under formula I, or

b) coupling the reacting the compound of formula XIII



wherein Ar_1 to Ar_2 , a , b , c , W and R_1 to R_8 are defined as under formula I and L is a leaving group such as e.g. halogen, preferably chlorine, bromine or iodine or a sulfonyloxy group such as e.g. methylensulfonyloxy, tolylsulfonyloxy or trifluoromethylensulfonyloxy group, is coupled with a compound of formula XIV



wherein Ar_1 is defined as under formula I and X' is either an anionic radical species of X such as $\text{O}^{\cdot-}\text{S}^{\cdot-}\text{S}(\text{O})_{n-}^{\cdot-}$ combined with an alkaline- or earthalkaline- metal cation as counterion or is defined as $\text{X}-\text{H}$ such as OH^- , SH^- , NHR_2^- if at the same time the reaction is generally carried out in the presence of a base such as alkaline-, earthalkaline carbonates or hydrogen carbonates such e.g. sodium or potassium carbonate, sodium or potassium - hydrogen carbonate, cesium carbonate or an agent capable of scavenging the formed acid.

Claim 10 (Original): A composition for controlling and protecting against phytopathogenic microorganisms, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient together with a suitable carrier.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic fungi microorganisms, which comprises the application of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient to the plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.

Claim 13 (Canceled)